
Government of the District of Columbia



Department of Human Services

Testimony of
Kate Jesberg
Interim Director

***“Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request for the
Department of Human Services
Rehabilitation Services Administration”***

Committee on Human Services
Adrian Fenty, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

April 7, 2006

Council Chamber
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
10:00 A.M.

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON FENTY AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES. I AM KATE JESBERG, INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. I AM PLEASED TO BE BEFORE YOU TODAY TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. I AM JOINED TODAY BY ELIZABETH PARKER, ADMINISTRATOR, REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (RSA).

RSA'S BUDGET IS \$31,458,535, AN INCREASE OF \$3,084,382 OVER FY 2006. THIS INCLUDES \$7,041,107 IN LOCAL FUNDS, \$20,717,428 IN FEDERAL FUNDS, AND \$3,700,000 IN OTHER FUNDS. THESE FUNDING SOURCES SUPPORT 197 FTE'S. LOCAL FUNDS IN RSA'S BUDGET ARE REQUIRED AS THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) OR MATCHING FUNDS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE FULL, FEDERAL FUNDING. THE INCREASE IN RSA'S BUDGET REPRESENTS OTHER (O) TYPE REVENUE RECEIVED ON BEHALF OF THE RANDOLPH SHEPPARD PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM ASSISTS PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME THROUGH VENDING AND RETAIL MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES LOCATED IN FEDERAL AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDINGS.

RSA'S BUDGET WILL SUPPORT AN ARRAY OF VOCATIONAL SERVICES TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENTER THE LABOR MARKET. THESE SERVICES INCLUDE COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE, ASSESSMENT

SERVICES, PHYSICAL RESTORATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, JOB SEARCH AND PLACEMENT. RSA ALSO PROVIDES SERVICES, WHICH WILL ASSIST THESE INDIVIDUALS TO MOVE TOWARD ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND BECOME INDEPENDENT IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE PROGRAMS IN RSA INCLUDE THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM, THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES PROGRAM, THE RANDOLPH SHEPPARD BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM, THE OLDER BLIND PROGRAM, THE TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM, THE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

IN FY 2007, THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO APPROXIMATELY 11,300 CLIENTS AND WILL PROVIDE PLACEMENT SERVICES TO OVER 1000 CLIENTS. APPROXIMATELY 70% OF THESE CLIENTS WILL REMAIN EMPLOYED FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS.

THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION HAS PROJECTED THAT 8,000 CLAIMS WILL BE ADJUDICATED IN FY 2007 FOR RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SEEKING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

FOR FY 2007, THE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO OVER 150 CLIENTS. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES 61 PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION AND 89 PERSONS WITH LONG-

TERM MENTAL ILLNESS. THIS PROGRAM WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

THE YOUTH AND TRANSITION UNIT PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES SEEKING ASSISTANCE WITH CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS. FOR FY 2007, THIS UNIT WILL COORDINATE SERVICES WITH D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS (DCPS) STAFF AND OTHER RSA COUNSELORS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO APPROXIMATELY 1690 STUDENTS.

THE RANDOLPH SHEPPARD VENDING FACILITIES PROGRAM PROVIDES PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND WITH PRIORITY IN THE OPERATION OF VENDING FACILITIES, WHICH INCLUDE CAFETERIAS, SNACK BARS, AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINES, GREETING CARD SHOPS, GIFT SHOPS, DRY CLEANERS, AND NEWSSTANDS ON FEDERAL AND OTHER PROPERTIES. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 42 RANDOLPH SHEPPARD FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND IN FY 2007, THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 46 FACILITIES.

RSA WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVOCATES TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THESE PARTNERS TO ENHANCE SERVICE

DELIVERY TO THE RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.